

Appl. No: 09/379,215

Amendment Dated: December 10, 2003

Reply to Office action of August 12, 2003

In the Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A multilayer composite body for the production of components or preforms, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers;

~~at least~~ only an outer one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface selected from the group consisting of a fixing strip and a rib.

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Claim 2 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said synthetic material of said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers has a melting temperature of $< 250^{\circ}\text{C}$.

Claim 3 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said synthetic material of said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene and ethylene vinyl acetate.

Claim 4 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said natural fiber layers contain natural fibers formed from the group consisting of flax, hemp, sisal, jut and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one reinforcing insert is centrally disposed and has outer surfaces;

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said natural fiber layers are first and second natural fiber layers disposed at said outer surfaces of said at least one reinforcing insert and having outer surfaces;

said thermoplastic layers are first and second thermoplastic layers covering and bonded with said outer surfaces of said first and second natural fiber layers as an outer layer; and

said thermoplastic synthetic bonding material of said natural fiber layers simultaneously penetrates said fibers of said fabric of said at least one reinforcing insert and said first and second thermoplastic layers.

Claim 7 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 6, wherein:

said at least one reinforcing insert includes first, second and third reinforcing inserts;

said reinforcing insert is disposed between said first and second natural fiber layers;

said second reinforcing insert is disposed between said first natural fiber layer and said first thermoplastic layer;

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said third reinforcing insert is disposed between said second natural fiber layer and said second thermoplastic layer; and

said second and third reinforcing inserts are bonded into said thermoplastic material of said adjacent natural fiber and thermoplastic layers.

Claim 8 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic layers are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of film material and fiber material becoming molten during molding of a component.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic layers are self-colored.

Claim 11 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said thermoplastic layers have outer surfaces, and covering layers are bonded with said outer surfaces.

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Claim 12 (Original). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said at least one reinforcing insert has a higher melting point than said thermoplastic.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented). A motor vehicle component or preform produced from a multilayer composite, comprising:

thermoplastic layers having synthetic materials;

natural fiber layers bonded with thermoplastic synthetic material; and

at least one reinforcing insert adjacent to said thermoplastic layers and said natural fiber layers, said at least one reinforcing insert having an open-pored fabric formed from fibers, said fabric penetrated from at least one side by melted synthetic materials of at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers integrating into and reinforcing said at least one of said adjacent natural fiber layers and said adjacent thermoplastic layers;

at least one of said thermoplastic layers forming an outer surface of said multilayer composite body and forming at least one molded functional element on said outer surface selected from the group consisting of a fixing strip and a rib.

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Claim 14 (Previously Presented). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said fibers of said fabric of said reinforcing insert are formed from a combination of said materials.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component surface is a molded-in functional element.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component surface is a surface structure.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a molded-in functional element.

Claim 18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Previously Presented). The multilayer composite body according to claim 1, wherein said component is a visually effective surface structure.

Claims 21-22 (Canceled).